

TV/Media

Until now, the association between art and television has been mostly manifest in television programs about the arts. Usually such programs have appeared as features of public television. In 1970- 71 the Council provided for substantial increase in this type of programming through grants to the public TV stations of the New York Network. It also provided significant support in connection with a less familiar phenomenon—the accelerating interest of artists in the creative use of the medium itself.

Television as art, or what has come to be called video art, has developed over the past fifteen years in three distinct strands. Artists with electronic skills have transformed old TV sets into the dazzling "light machines" that have appeared in galleries and museums, and some have developed video colorizers and synthesizers which permit electronic "painting." A relative few have penetrated the engineers' citadels of broadcast television to create experimental videotapes with the full palette of the switching consoles. A larger number, working since 1967 with half-inch portable video systems from Japan, have explored the potential of videotape to reach out and open circuits of communication within a variety of small communities — giving substance to attitudes and concerns which monolithic broadcast television has ignored to a point of near obliteration.

The following listing in this new area of Council involvement suggests the extraordinary potential of the medium still to be explored as we go forward into tomorrow's wired nation.

Russell Connor

TV/Media assistance in 1970-71

American Crafts Council, New York City. \$36,380 for organizing a Contemporary Cultural Information Center—a videotape exhibition facility operated by People's Video Theatre.

American Foundation on Automation and Employment, New York City. \$48,000 for administrative salaries of the Intermedia Institute and the presentation of a series of eleven concerts at Automation House by multimedia artists and composers exploring new uses of electronic technology in music.

The Block of 7th Street Media Project, New York City. \$25,000 for the continuation and expansion of a media workshop, a design workshop, and photo lab and gallery projects with youth from the Lower East Side.

Center for Understanding Media, New York City. \$35,000 for the compilation and maintenance of

a videotape archive by the Raindance Corporation, and for the publication costs of three issues of a video newsletter, Radical Software.

Cornell University, Collaborations in Art, Science and Technology, Ithaca. \$25,000 to support the collaboration of creative and performing artists, technologists, and scientists by sponsoring seminars, lectures, and workshops in the Finger Lakes Region, and for a multimedia poetry tour of upstate New York.

Dance Channel-Visual Services (subsequently called Video Exchange}, New York City. \$10,400 for the production of videotapes that can improve on dance notation by providing a choreographic record for study and analysis and can be used for multimedia presentations.

Educational Broadcasting Corporation {WNET, Channel 13), New York City. \$60,000 to develop the Artist's Television Workshop and enable five artists to experiment with videotape for broadcast on Channel 13; \$7,500 for production of up to one hundred poetry "station breaks" consisting of children reading their own poetry; \$54,000 for an equipment pool of one-inch color and half-inch black and white video equipment for artist-community use; and \$15,000 for the National Educational Television production of the Paper Bag Players' Dandelion for the 180-station public television network.

The Educational Television Council of Central New York {WCNY, Channel 24), Syracuse. \$10,000 for videotaping and broadcasting composer Eric Salzman's environmental multimedia work Feedback.

Global Village, New York City. \$35,000 for the operation of community-oriented video workshops and to make portable television equipment available to interested artists for experimental purposes.

Long Island Educational Television Council (WLIW, Channel 21), Garden City. \$21,000 for the production of thirteen half-hour programs on the cultural contributions of different ethnic groups in Long Island, and to continue the Community Calendar program of local events.

Mohawk-Hudson Council on Educational Television (WMHT, Channel 17), Schenectady. \$79,100 for operation of a mobile unit for cultural programming, and for a half-year residency at the station by Aldo Tambellini.

Port Washington Public Library. \$31,000 for a community program promoting the arts, humanities, and social awareness through use of film and other media, particularly portable videotape systems.

Regents Television Fund, Albany. \$13,000 for the production of a thirteen-part school television series, Film and Society, exploring such American film types as the Western, the Musical, and the Gangster Film.

Rochester Area Educational Television Association (WXXI, Channel 21), Rochester. \$16,000 for the production of a one-hour color presentation of the Brockport Dance Ensemble performances and (in cooperation with the Rochester Museum and Science Center) four half-hour black and white specials.

Rochester Museum and Science Center. \$73,500 to create, in conjunction with Videofreex, a Media Bus to serve museums, schools, and community organizations, and to establish an equipment pool of portable video equipment for artist-community use.

South Street Seaport Museum, New York City. \$36,500 for live presentations at the Seaport Theatre, and for long-range development costs of a sound and light production.

Southern Tier Educational Television, Association (WSKC, Channel 46), Binghamton. \$18,950 to produce local cultural programming from WSKG-TV; and \$50,000 for the establishment of a Community Center for Television Production under the administration of Ralph Hocking, director of the Experimental Television Center at State University of New York at Binghamton.

Supernova, New York City. \$32,000 for the operation of workshops in photography, silk-screen, printing, mythology-poetry, video, sound, film, and children's art.

Unit Productions Unlimited, Garden City. \$3,000 for production costs of six studio interviews and discussions with artists from Long Island for broadcast on WLIW.

Video Arts Research, New York City. \$35,000 for the production of videotapes by Jackie Cassen and other media artists for distribution through universities and cable television.

Western New York Educational Television Association (WNED, Channel 12), Buffalo. \$65,000 for the production of a half-hour color program on New York State artist Charles Burchfield, and for taping a series of music concerts presented by associates of the Center of Creative and Performing Arts at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery.